Foodgrain subsidy

591. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy spent during the year 2007-08 for procuring and distributing foodgrains and other essential commodities to the consumers;

(b) the percentage of subsidy going to the consumers straight way, and

(c) the steps contemplated by Government to provide the lion share of subsidy for the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Food Corporation of India (FCI) has informed that the amount of subsidy spent during the year 2007-08 was as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)

Consumer Subsidy	Subsidy incurred	% to total subsidy incurred
Wheat	10,789	34.75
Rice	19,604	63.14
Sub Total	30,393	97.89
Buffer subsidy	654	2.11
Total subsidy	31,047	100.00

This apart, Rs. 67 crore was released to FCI to compensate losses incurred by the State Governments/FCI in distributing levy sugar in the States/UTs during 2007-08.

(b) and (c) Out of total consumer subsidy, 97.89% of subsidy is utilized directly for issuing subsidised foodgrains to the consumers under TPDS and other welfare schemes.

Foodgrain stock

592. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what was the increased procurement of foodgrains, stocks with Government against the minimum buffer norm and the surplus percentage over the required buffer in the year 2008 from January to December;

(b) the actual stocks Government has at present as compared to the buffer norm; and

(c) the details of Government's proposal to deal with surplus stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Procurement of rice during Kharif Marketing Season 2007-08 has been 284.91 lakh tons. In the current Kharif Marketing Season 2008-09 (Oct. 2008-Sept. 2009), 220.25 lakh tons of rice has been procured by 16.2.2009. During Rabi Marketing Season, 2008-09 (April 2008 - March 2009), there has been procurement of 226.82 lakh tons of wheat.

The stock with the Central Pool *vis-a-vis* buffer norms since 1.1.2008 is given below:-

(Qty. in lakh tons)

	Rice		Wheat	
As on	Actual Stocks	Buffer Norms	Actual Stocks	Buffer Norms
1st January, 2008	114.75	118.00	77.12	82.00
1st April, 2008*	138.35	132.00	58.03	50.00
1st July, 2008	112.49	98.00	249.12	171.00
1st October, 2008	78.63	52.00	220.25	110.00
1st January, 2009	175.76	118.00	182.12	82.00

*Adhoc enhanced norms.

The stock in the Central Pool as on 1.2.2009 was 201.94 lakh tons of Rice and 167.74 lakh tons of Wheat.

(c) The Stocks of foodgrains available in the Central Pool are being used for allocations to States/UTs under TPDS, various Welfare Schemes and for relief during calamities and for market intervention to increase their availability for consumers.

In view of the increased availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool during 2008-09, a total of 429.14 lakh tons of foodgrains (274.24 lakh tons of Rice and 154.90 lakh tons of Wheat) have been allocated by the Government under TPDS, Welfare Schemes and for flood relief etc. Government has also allocated about 24 lakh tons of wheat to State/UT Governments for sale to retail and bulk consumers under Open Market Sale Schemes (OMSS) in order to increase its availability in the market.

In addition to the existing buffer norms, Government has also decided to create strategic reserve of 30 lakh tons of wheat and 20 lakh tons of rice from Central Pool. Further, Government has allowed export of upto 20 lakh tons of wheat from Central Pool on diplomatic basis to friendly countries.

Stock of wheat and rice

†593.SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the available stock of wheat and rice in the country at present;

(b) the quantity of stock of wheat and rice which is considered to be enough from the food security point of view; and

(c) whether Government has prepared any action plan for adequate amount of storage of foodgrains in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The stock of wheat and rice in Central Pool as on 1st February, 2009 is as under:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.